

“The Genius of Jesus”

WELCOME to a four session course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College



The Course Vision

To reveal history's most intelligent teacher offering you the knowledge to live a good life as a really good human.

The Course Intention

- * Clear, relevant, Biblical truth
- * Present the best answers to life's four most important questions.
- * Offer a global community of encouragement & accountability

The Course Means

- * Four interactive sessions with optional, extended Q&C
- * Study resources for learning and spiritual growth practices
- * A global Cadre of Apprentices of Jesus Christ
- * Library of over 475 tools



Format - 30 minutes

- Welcome, Focus & Review
 - Session Highlights
 - Your Q&C's
 - Summary & Blessing
- — —
- After: Optional more Q&C

Recorded sessions, slides,
& study guide in the
[Jesus College Library](#)

Your Teacher's Assistant

Doug Webster

- * Following Jesus for 50 years & working with Him since I was 18.
- * Vanguard University & Fuller Seminary
- * Met the Jesus Dallas knew 17 years ago
- * Started Jesus College in 2015
- * “The Genius of Jesus” is our 32nd webinar engaging over 3100 participants from 58 Countries.
- * Jesus College's “Master's in the Master” spiritual training
- * A blessed Family of 17!





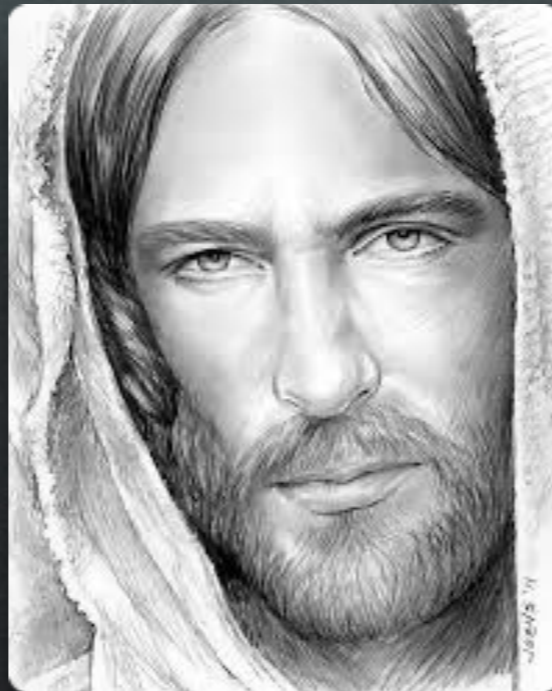
A Community of Jesus Loving Shepherds

Bonthe, Sierra Leone ~ October 31 - November 2, 2024



“The Genius of Jesus”
Knowledge of Truth for Life
Session 1, Part 1

Dallas Willard at Ohio State University
November 14, 2002



The Genius



We are grateful to Dallas Willard Ministries for making these videos available for free.

“The Genius of Jesus”
Knowledge of Truth for Life

What it Means to be Human

“Any system of education that ignores the moral and religious nature of the student is fundamentally defective.”

Ohio State University President, 1882





The Human Burden – To find an adequate basis
of knowledge for life.

We are responsible for our future.

The kind of person we are going to be.

That requires knowledge.



—> **Knowledge** (def.) - “We have knowledge when we have the ability to represent things as they are on an appropriate basis of thought and experience.”





—> **The Problem Today**

We have defined knowledge in such a way that the most important matters of human life cannot be subjects of knowledge.



Truth is in trouble.
It is laughable...

“The truth will make you free.”

Truth & Desire & Belief

—> If **TRUTH** is not a legitimate goal, if it is not rational and makes sense and is available to people, it won't make you free.

It won't do much of anything for you.

TRUTH, like reality, and **DESIRE** always come into conflict.

That's where **BELIEFS** comes in. When you believe something, you act as if it were true. We need to have beliefs that are true. Followers must confidently believe leaders have knowledge of truth.

We know a lot of stuff we don't believe because our will is set against it.

You can't manufacture **Truth**...it is totally indifferent to who believes it or who doesn't.



—> Rumors of Truth — When Desire Outruns Truth

Truth is more often what someone
wants than knowledge.

With no knowledge, and truth with it, desire and will
push that aside and promote mere rumors of truth.

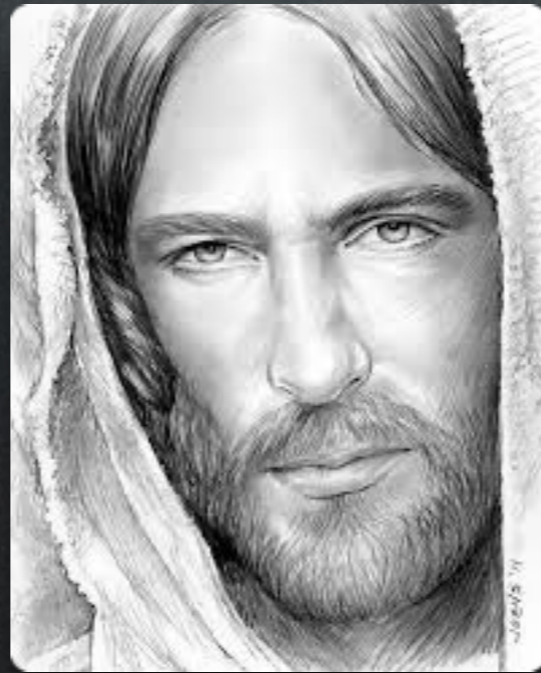
People will live by rumors and their lives can be
ruined by them.



Life's Four Great Questions

The "4M IQ" test - Four Most Important Questions

The reason that Jesus stands forth as someone who should be heard in a University context is because of the centrality of these four questions.



The Genius

Life's Four Great Questions

Q1 — What is the Nature of Reality?

The most important question you'll ever deal with.

Reality is what you run into when you're wrong.

Truth enables you to harmonize your life with reality.

*In our culture,
reality is our body*





Q2 — Who is Well Off?

Who has the good life?

Who has blessedness?





Q3 — Who is a Really Good Person?

Am I worth admiring?

Do I have something to contribute?





Q4 — How do you Become a Really Good Person?

Every university conveys answers to these questions.

Attitudes • Language • Examples • Teaching • Research

Today it is assumed in no field of knowledge
is knowledge of God required.

You're apt to think, "*Why is he even talking about that?*"

The assumption is
God is irrelevant.



Three Stories * Framing the Human Approach



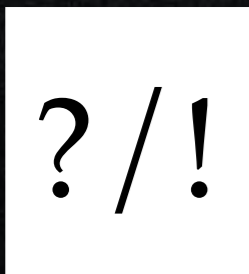
Theistic Story – Ultimate reality is a personal God, indeed a community in Himself - the Christian story of Theism - and everything derives from a personal God who is ultimate.



Materialist Story - Physical Universe is the only ultimate reality. The official underlying assumption of today's education system.



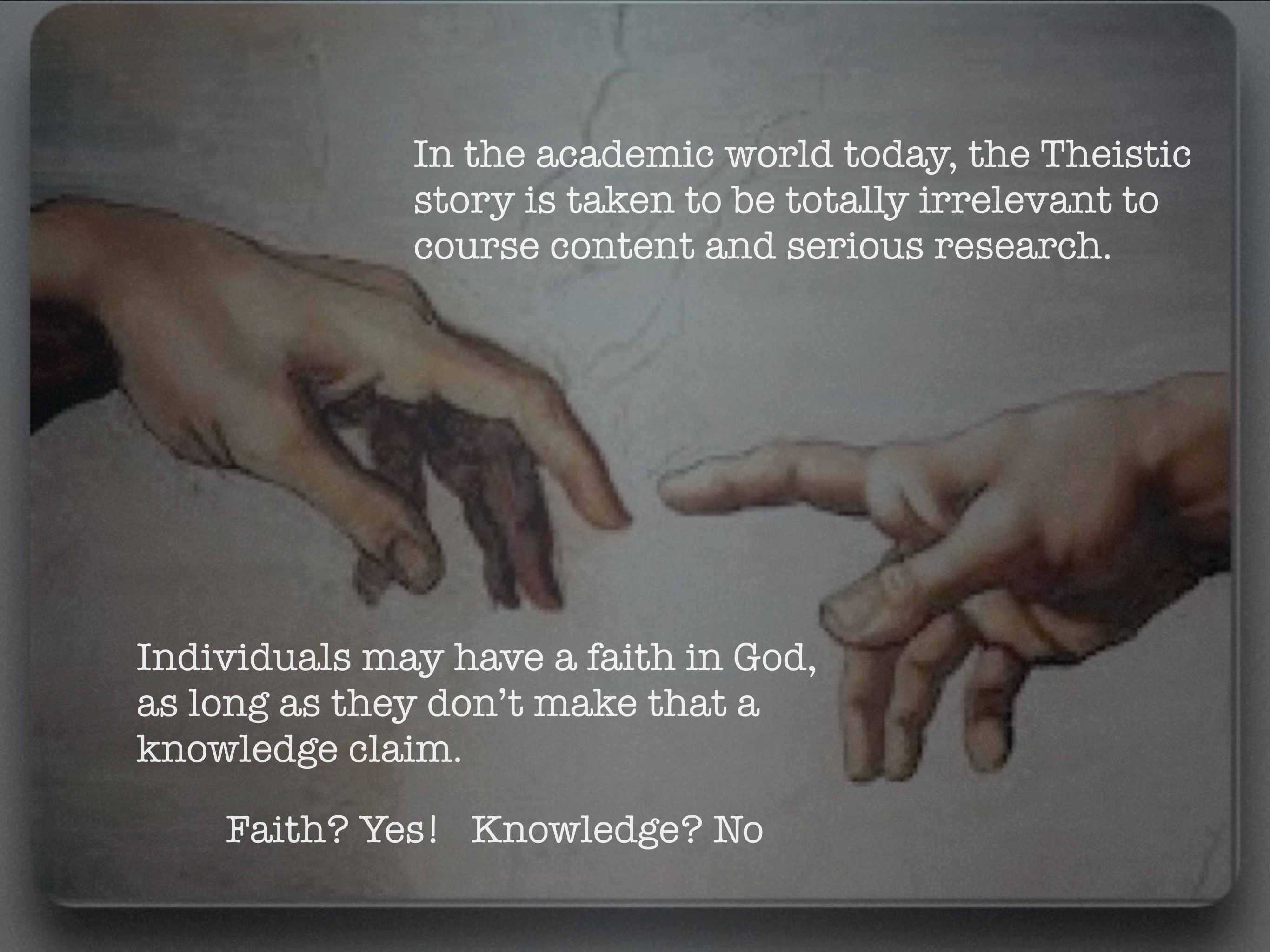
Nirvana Story - “New Age” - Everything derives from a reality that is undifferentiated - the realm of “no thing”.



Agnostic Story (Can appear to be an option)

Not just, “*I don't know.*” Rather, “*We can not know.*”

* - Jesus College's [“Jesus Worldview” 3-session course link](#)

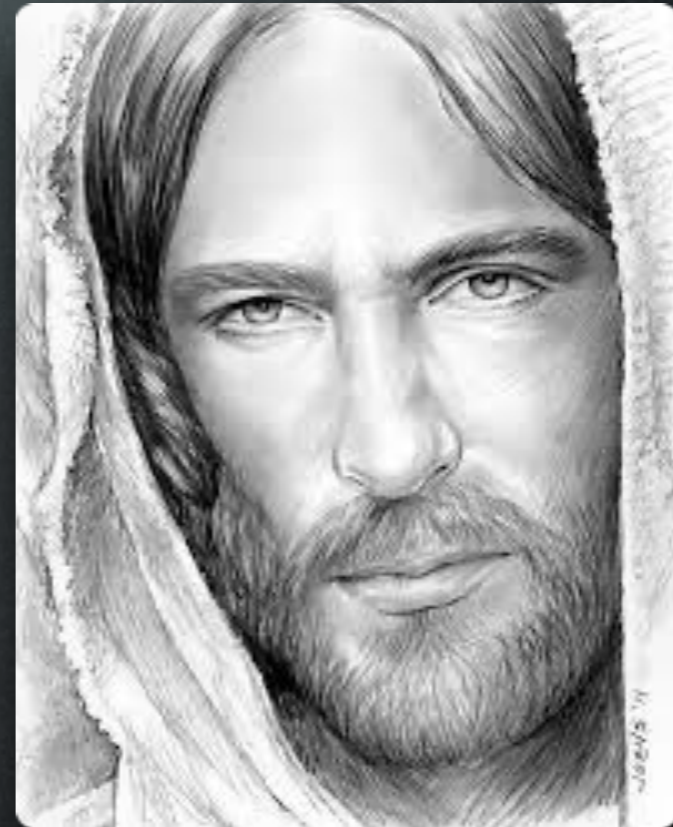
The background of the slide is a faded, dark version of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam". It shows the hand of God on the right reaching towards the hand of Adam on the left, with a small gap between their fingers. The text is overlaid on this image.

In the academic world today, the Theistic story is taken to be totally irrelevant to course content and serious research.

Individuals may have a faith in God, as long as they don't make that a knowledge claim.

Faith? Yes! Knowledge? No

The historical power of Jesus has been precisely the way in which He has responded to these issues of human life.



The Genius



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!



Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen



You are blessed with 10,080 minutes weekly. If you invest 80 minutes watching the video plus our “live” course session, you still have 10,000 minutes of your life with God in His Kingdom among us to learn from Jesus how He would lead your life if He were you.

80:00 + 10K

Meditation — *Matthew 4:17*

Application

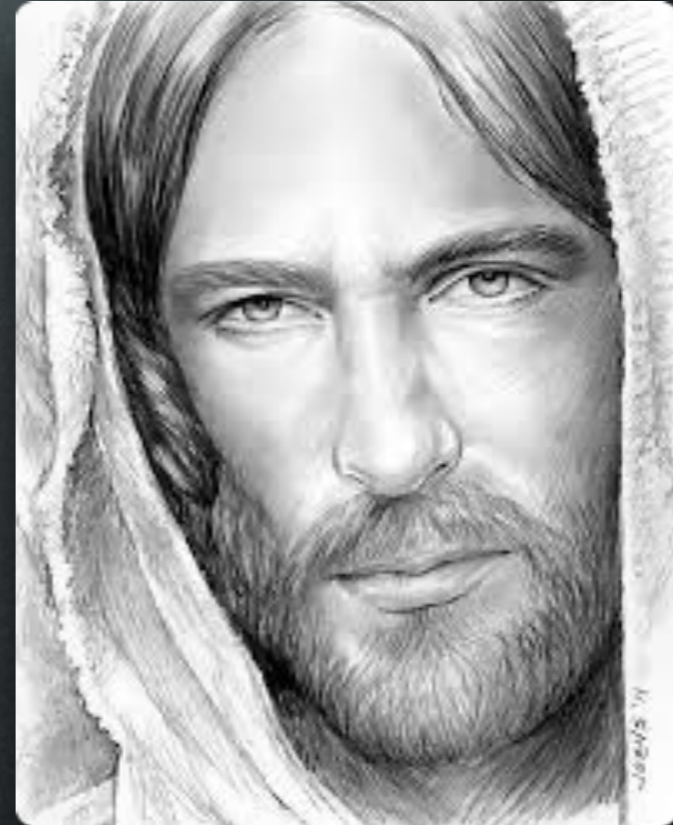
- Q1** — What “knowledge” guides who I want to be?
What % of “truth” versus “desire” defines what I know, believe, and act on?
- Q2** — What are 2-3 destructive rumors I did (still do) believe to be true?
- Q3** — Honestly, how relevant are the four great questions to my daily life?



† Cross Fit

Session 1 Summary

Humans have the burden to find a knowledge for life's most important questions. We will each choose a story from which we draw the answers. The story Jesus tells provides truth for beliefs upon which a good life runs.



The Genius

Next Week — Session 2

“The Genius of Jesus” part 2

“The Historical Power of Jesus”

Invite others to join you?

Register — info@JesusCollege.com



“The Genius of Jesus” — Dallas Willard’s 2-part series
Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube Channel

Session links:

The Genius of Jesus, part 1 - [“Knowledge of Truth for Life”](#)

The Genius of Jesus, part 2 - [“The Historical Power of Jesus”](#)

[What Does it Mean to Be Human, part 1](#)

[What Does it Mean to Be Human, part 2](#)



May your your next
10,000 minutes be filled
with the story of God
offering knowledge of
truth to engage and
express a good life!

Doug

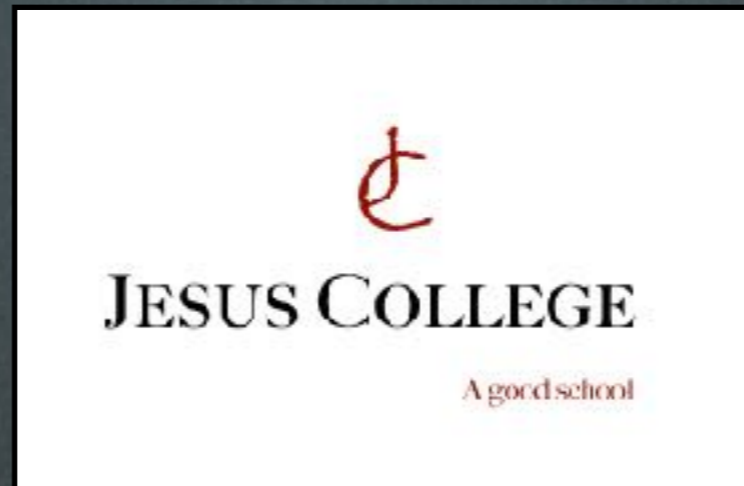
@OneAfterJesus



The SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

Jesus College Mission - To Empower Apprentices of the Master Teacher Jesus as the One, great truth to live a good life found in Him.

Jesus College Vision - Equipping Trainers—Parents, Pastors, Professionals, Professors, Politicians—to mentor Senior Apprentices who will make Apprentices of Jesus.

• **Courses** • **Resources** • **Gatherings** • **Relationships**

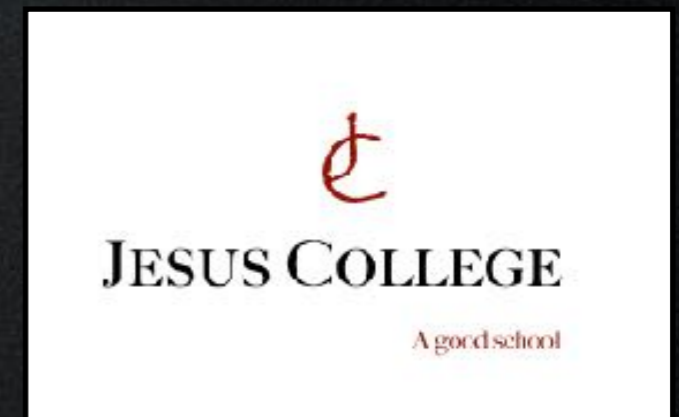
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